

FLASHES

120 swimmers, half of them men, half girls, contested the annual five mile race down the river Ijssel, Holland.

The ^{tidal} water ~~is tidal and~~ was ebbing fast as they swam seawards. Two of the girls seemed as if they couldn't bear to lose sight of each other. The honour of wearing the No. 1 on his cap went to Gerrit de Bruyn, as he won last year. He was first again, completing the five miles in two minutes over the hour... First woman home was Beatrix Brins. She came in five minutes later. Good performances by both of them.

A Frenchman has built a hydro-plane, a boat with steps of new design, on to which it lifts itself at speed. The idea is to raise the hull almost completely out of the water, thus reducing the resistance almost to nothing. The hydro-plane made the trip from Toulon to Corsica (140 miles) at 45 m.p.h.

3 Leningrad's cathedral of St. Issac, 100 years old, is having minor repairs to the fabric. To see what ~~renovations were~~ necessary architect Speralsky volunteered to climb the building in mountaineering fashion. Up he went armed with plans, providing quite a thrill to people below. Alpine climber ~~in~~ Tikhonov lent ^{him} ~~the architect~~ a hand.... Speralsky duly reached the top ~~of the dome, 325~~ 325-feet above ground, only 40-feet lower than the dome of St. Pauls.